

Foundation Degree

What is a Foundation Degree?

Foundation Degrees are university level degree courses that offer an exciting work-based alternative to the traditional university route. They are:

- A stand-alone recognised qualification.
- Equivalent to studying the first two years of an honours degree programme.
- Highly valued by employers.

How does this work?

Foundation Degrees in Hertfordshire are accessible through your local college, as part of the Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium*. On graduation you will be awarded a University of Hertfordshire validated degree, and depending on your chosen course you even get letters after your name... FdA, FdSc.

Benefits to studying a Foundation Degree

- **real-life projects** which enable you to gain valuable work experience whilst allowing you to apply your skills and knowledge.
- **support** that's available throughout your course from tutors and advisors in College and mentors in your place of work.
- **affordable** because you can choose from one of four colleges to study at you will never be far from home, saving you money on living costs.
- **funding** through student tuition fee loans will cover the cost of your programme – so there's nothing to pay up front.

Who can study a Foundation Degree?

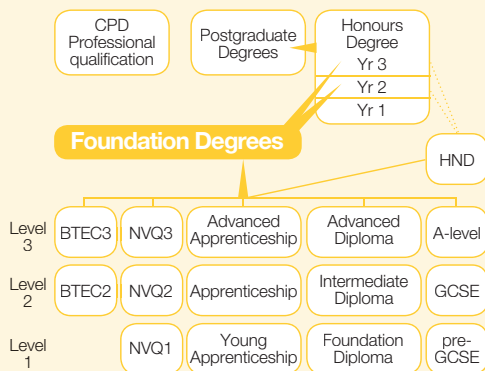
Foundation Degrees are suitable for all kinds of candidates including:

- Those with Level 3 qualifications (eg A Levels, Advanced Apprenticeships, BTECs, Access to Higher Education or City & Guilds).
- Those looking for a change in career.
- Those already employed but wanting to gain a Higher Education qualification either to progress their career or other aspirations.

What can I do with my Foundation Degree?

That really is up to you! Your degree will ensure that you are well equipped to start your career path and research shows that those with a Higher Education qualification earn 25% more than those without! However, if you have a taste for learning you can 'top-up' your Foundation Degree to a BA or BSc honours degree.

How do Foundation Degrees fit with other qualifications?



Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium*

The Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium is a partnership between the University of Hertfordshire, Hertford Regional College, North Hertfordshire College, Oaklands College and West Herts College.

The consortium provides innovative, high quality courses that support vocational higher education. Students get the best of both worlds – the benefits and support of studying at college, and access to University facilities including the libraries (LRCs), athletic and student unions all social activities, careers support and much, much more.



The table shows the structure of the Foundation Degree in Animal Management – illustrated as a full-time course.

Year One	Semester A	Small & Exotic Animal Husbandry (15 credits)	Anatomy & Physiology (15 credits)	Animal Nutrition (15 credits)	Personal Development Planning (30 credits)
	Semester B	Animal Health (15 credits)	Livestock Husbandry & Welfare (15 credits)	Animal Physiology (15 credits)	
Year Two	Semester A	Law in Land Based Industry (15 credits)	Enterprise & Business Ethics (15 credits)	Investigative Methods (15 credits)	Work Related Project (30 credits)
	Semester B	Introduction to Animal Behaviour Science (15 credits)	Animal Reproduction & Technology (15 credits)	Animal Conservation (15 credits)	



Year 1 modules – Semester A

Personal Development Planning

It is important a student is able to self-reflect to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses needing development to ensure success on the course and puts plans in place to improve upon their existing capabilities. The importance of reflection on feedback, opportunities, achievements and personal performance will be emphasised. Students will reflect on application of programme acquired knowledge and skills to relevant work related situations.

The module will assist students to develop and complete a personal development plan linked to successful completion of the programme, consequent employment and lifelong learning. The module is supported by lectures, seminars, workshops and 1:1 tutorials.

A range of topics will be covered to provide knowledge and skills to underpin academic and career related personal goals. Students will assume responsibility in completing these goals, using strategies introduced through teaching and external opportunities.

Small & Exotic Animal Husbandry

This module refers to animal husbandry and management and covers a range of topics, including restraint, housing, and utilisation of management records.

Students will have an opportunity to develop practical handling skills and assess health on a range of animals providing them with essential skills required for working in the animal industry. Students will be given the opportunity to investigate accommodation types and analyse their use and welfare implications.

Factors influencing provision of good husbandry will be introduced and investigated. Types of animal covered may include mammals (not livestock), reptiles, amphibians, fish, birds and invertebrates.

Entry requirements

The normal entry requirements for the programme are: 48 points including one GCE A level or equivalent. Plus GCSEs at grade 4 or above, in English language, mathematics and science or equivalent.

If English is not your first language, you will need an IELTS score of 6.0 or 80 IBT or equivalent.

Normally, when applying for this course potential students should also be able to demonstrate experience of practical animal husbandry and handling. Examples of evidence confirming this may comprise a reference from animal industry employers or certification from an animal management or care course, this should be submitted in the personal statement section of the UCAS form.

Candidates without UCAS points will be assessed on an individual basis. Applications will be welcomed from those working in relevant employment. A guidance interview may be used to assess the suitability of such students for either programme.

How to apply

Applications are to be made through UCAS – www.UCAS.com. Institutional Code: Herts H36.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment of the course will be a combination of both coursework and examination. However, the main focus of assessment will be on coursework, a wide range is used including essays, blogs, practical assessment and presentations.

What will I learn?

The Foundation degree in Animal Management is intended to provide you with advanced specialist knowledge and skills that are necessary for entry and progression within the animal industry. One of the main advantages of studying the Foundation Degree in Animal Management is that it has strong links with potential employers which provide a large proportion of work-based learning, giving you as a graduate extra skills that employers find desirable. If you are already working in the animal industry, this degree will provide a higher education qualification that opens up opportunities to progress to higher level or alternative occupations.



Anatomy & Physiology

This module will explore the anatomy and physiology of small animals, exotic animals, farm animals and horses. Teaching, learning and assessment methods are designed to prepare students for further scientific study. This unit will be based on practical sessions including dissections and physiological experiments.

Students will be required to use appropriate terminology for the subject and to develop good communication skills.

Animal Nutrition

This module will cover the different types of food, properties and uses within a nutritional context. A wide range of food types and sources will be assessed in relation to their nutritional value. The anatomy and function of the gastrointestinal tract will be analysed as will the digestion and absorption of food types. The rationing process will be covered in detail in relation to a range of animals.

Year 1 – Semester B

Personal Development Planning

It is important a student is able to self-reflect to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses needing development to ensure success on the course and puts plans in place to improve upon their existing capabilities. The importance of reflection on feedback, opportunities, achievements and personal performance will be emphasised. Students will reflect on application of programme acquired knowledge and skills to relevant work related situations. The module will assist students to develop and complete a personal development plan linked to successful completion of the programme, consequent employment and lifelong learning.

The module is supported by lectures, seminars, workshops and 1:1 tutorials. A range of topics will be covered to provide knowledge and skills to underpin academic and career related personal goals. Students will assume responsibility in

completing these goals, using strategies introduced through teaching and external opportunities.

Animal Health

This module will provide a detailed understanding of animal health to include diseases and parasites, their causative agents, transmission and management. It will also develop and demonstrate knowledge and an understanding of the application of first aid procedures.

It will provide students with the opportunity to develop their communication, research and practical skills in preparation for further learning.

Livestock Husbandry & Welfare

This module provides knowledge for the production and management of a range of livestock animals and systems. Knowledge of husbandry, nutrition, physiology and health will be developed and applied.

The module investigates livestock animal production systems with particular reference to the ethics and welfare requirements. The specific nutritional requirements for the purpose of the livestock species and evaluations of the different housing systems for a range of livestock animals are included.

The recognition of signs of ill-health will be emphasised and routine and non-routine preventative and control measures for the health and welfare of livestock animals will be explored. Relevant legislation and legal record keeping to ensure healthy stock and the specific Health and Safety requirements for operators will be justified.

The importance of safe and effective handling techniques and use of suitable equipment for each species will be demonstrated for varied circumstances throughout livestock production systems.



Animal Physiology

Taught jointly to FdSc Animal Management and BSc Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security students, this module is designed to provide knowledge of applied animal physiology. Physiology is the processes and functions within a living organism.

Genetics and breeding systems in a range of animals will be introduced. A range of reproductive technologies such as embryo transfer, artificial insemination and genetic engineering will be explored. A practical breeding experiment will be undertaken.

It will also introduce the student to the causes of abnormal physiological conditions, with reference to the endocrine system. Management of these conditions will be examined. Physiological adaptations demonstrated in different environments will be analysed in order to understand the link between the two.

Students will be introduced to and expected to use appropriate terminology for the subject.

Year 2 modules – Semester A

Law in Land Based Industry

Students will begin the module with an overview of history of the progression of land based law, terminology, basic procedures for the development and approval of legislation. The influence of evidence, key events and policy will be included. The module will focus on English law but consider the significance of global law.

Universal and specific topics affecting land based industries and business will be considered by looking at the range of strategies applied to ensure compliance. The implications of these strategies on land based businesses and industry will be discussed. The response of government and non-government organisations to legislation (for example, guidance, codes of practice, schemes, etc.) will also be investigated.

Enterprise & Business Ethics

This module draws together many of the topics covered in other modules and allows students to practice the business skills required in a small business or management level role. It brings together the concepts of animal welfare, sustainable development and social responsibility to address particular ethical business considerations and improve business practice.

The module is primarily designed to gain a working understanding of business management in the Animal Management industry. In particular it will enable individuals to produce, explore and make reasoned decisions based on financial information.

Financial management and marketing will be studied to ensure the success of a business will be sustained long term. Ethical analysis of a chosen business will support business development skills, to include animal-based ethics, environmental impact and stakeholder considerations. Case Studies from land-based and wider business examples will be introduced.

Investigative Methods

This module will introduce students to a range of methods, both qualitative and quantitative, that can be used in small scale investigations. The module should prepare students to undertake investigative work as part of their work related project and prepare them for more in-depth independent project work in future studies. Topics to be covered will be drawn from; discrete stages of undertaking research, the research question, reviewing literature, approaches to research, ethics, primary and secondary data, data collection methods, analysing and presenting data. Emphasis will be placed on framing or defining research questions at the start of the module as this is key in designing a realistic and achievable research project. Students will be able to practice techniques in relation to an agreed investigative study of their design.



This module will prepare for other modules e.g. Work Related Project and behaviour observations in Animal Behaviour.

Work Related Project

The Work Related Project will allow students an opportunity to relate the skills, knowledge and understanding learnt on the course to a relevant work based situation. Project management and time planning will be covered in detail in the taught part of this module.

The module will also implement research methodology which links to the Level 5 Investigative Methods module. Relevant Health and Safety and research ethics where applicable will be covered to enable facilitation of the project. Evaluative and reflective techniques will be developed within sessions to allow students to build on their skills and apply to the project module. A minimum of 10 hours should be spent at the workplace, in addition to time spent in liaison with the employer as part of self-directed independent study. Any work related experience will be in the farm, animal or equine area.

Year 2 – Semester B

Introduction to Animal Behaviour Science

Students will develop their understanding through looking at what motivates animals to perform normal, functional behaviours. They will observe behaviour to understand how animals communicate with each other, how they satisfy their basic needs, exploit their environment and consider how behaviour has evolved. This fundamental understanding will enable them to analyse and discuss factors influencing behaviour and will lead to an individual study of a species and scientific analysis of findings.

Animal Reproduction & Technology

This module will allow students to develop and build on their knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of reproductive tracts and hormones involved within the oestrus cycle. Detection of oestrus and manipulation of the oestrus cycle will be investigated. Parturition and the health and welfare issues commonly encountered will be included.

The module also includes current reproductive technologies, welfare and disease control for specified purposes. Contemporary issues surrounding animal reproduction and technology will be investigated.

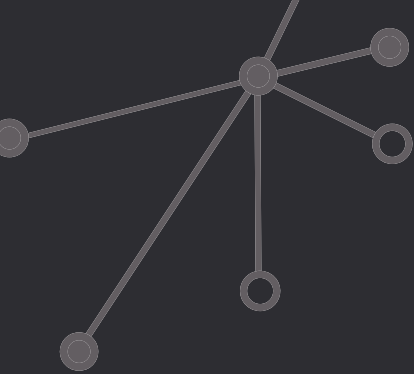
Animal Conservation

This module will consider aspects of animal conservation both in the UK and globally. You will examine factors and threats regulating global and UK populations. Conservation techniques and organisations will be explored. Additionally the value, legal, ethical and welfare implications of wildlife conservation will be discussed.

Work Related Project

The Work Related Project will allow students an opportunity to relate the skills, knowledge and understanding learnt on the course to a relevant work based situation. Project management and time planning will be covered in detail in the taught part of this module.

The module will also implement research methodology which links to the level 5 Investigative Methods module. Relevant Health and Safety and research ethics where applicable will be covered to enable facilitation of the project. Evaluative and reflective techniques will be developed within sessions to allow students to build on their skills and apply to the project module. A minimum of 10 hours should be spent at the workplace, in addition to time spent in liaison with the employer as part of self-directed independent study. Any work related experience will be in the farm, animal or equine area.



For further information

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